

SB 327 -- ELECTRONIC MONITORING

SPONSOR: Dixon (Haahr)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 10 to 2.

Currently, a judge can release a person charged with a crime pending trial or on probation after being convicted of a crime on house arrest with electronic monitoring if the person can afford the costs of monitoring. This bill allows a person to be placed on electronic monitoring if the person can afford the costs or the county commission agrees to pay the costs of monitoring from its general revenue.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that giving county commissions the option to pay for electronic monitoring will save counties money by keeping more offenders out of prison. Some studies have shown that electronic monitoring leads to successful rehabilitation because it ensures the offenders are adhering to the conditions of his or her release. Law enforcement officers will also have the ability to pinpoint the location of an offender if he or she commits a crime.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dixon; County Commissioners Association of Missouri; and Greene County Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.